



## Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

*Lee Holloway*  
Chairman of the Board

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### **RTA BILL MUST PROVIDE DEDICATED FUNDING & PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., are responding to the Regional Transit Authority legislation announced this week.

“Last November, the voters of Milwaukee County approved a dedicated sales tax to provide property tax relief and remove parks and culture, transit, and emergency medical services from the levy. The 2009-2011 State Budget did not deliver this voter-approved solution. As a result, the bus and parks systems continue to depend on the property tax for support, which puts them in peril,” Chairman Holloway said. “In particular, dedicated transit funding is necessary to transport employees to and from work. The lack of this funding makes it more difficult to create, attract and retain jobs in Milwaukee County.”

Chairman Holloway sits on the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA), where members have received the clear message that the federal government will not approve an application for the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail until the existing transit systems are stabilized.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Holloway wants to see a proposal that:

- Provides for a dedicated transit sales tax consistent with the November 2008 referendum
- Guarantees property tax relief for Milwaukee County residents
- Ensures that funds raised in Milwaukee County stay in the County; and
- Protects the investments made to the bus system and its assets, on behalf of County taxpayers

“The introduction of a new Regional Transit Authority (RTA) proposal holds promise and could move us in the right direction to deliver positive transit outcomes,” Chairman Holloway added. “But this progress cannot come at the expense of Milwaukee County’s bus riders and taxpayers.”

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairman of the County Board’s Transportation, Public Works & Transit Committee, added, “A representative of the Governor’s Office appeared before the Committee this morning, and we are reviewing all the details from this proposal, including the revenue streams available to interim RTAs and the proposed process for applying for federal and state funding. I look forward to helping craft suggestions to improve this legislative proposal.”

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